

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216984

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING MEXICO 8161 SENT STATE RPT TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8161

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: MEETING OF LA FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BOGOTA

REF: STATE 212801

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH FROM MCBRIDE

1. I REPORTED A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA ON THE SUBJECT OF THE BOGOTA CONFERENCE IN MEXICO 8068. I NOTED THEREIN THAT I BELIEVED HE WAS DISPOSED TO BE HELPFUL TO US IN CONNECTION WITH THIS GATHERING ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF HIS GREAT ADMIRATION FOR THE SECRETARY AND THE HIGH STOCK HE PLACES IN HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM.

2. INASMUCH AS RABASA WILL BE IN NEW YORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE ECHEVERRIA CHARTER, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE
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SECRETARY COULD CALL HIM AND MAKE FAVORABLE REFERENCE

TO RABASA'S VIEWS AS EXPRESSED IN THE REFERENCE MESSAGE. FOREIGN SECRETARY MAY WELL OF COURSE TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN CALLING THE SECRETARY. IN ANY EVENT, I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN MAINTAINING RABASA'S POSITIVE APPROACH IF THE SECRETARY COULD INDICATE AN AWARENESS THAT OUR VIEWS SEEM PARALLEL PARTICULARLY IN BELIEVING THAT IT WOULD BE USELESS TO HAVE A US-LATIN AMERICAN CONFRONTATION FOLLOWING BOGOTA. ON THE CONTRARY IT COULD BE A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IF THE LATIN AMERICANS WERE TO MEET AT BOGOTA AND SUBSEQUENTLY JOIN WITH THE SECRETARY IN A CONSTRUCTIVE EXAMINATION OF HEMISPHERE ISSUES AND THE FUTURE OF THE AREA.

3. THERE CONTINUES TO BE SOME CONFUSION IN MEXICO CITY PRESS (AND THIS MAY BE EQUALLY TRUE IN LATIN AMERICAN PRESS ELSEWHERE) OVER THE FACT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER DOES NOT PLAN TO ATTEND THE BOGOTA MEETING. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER A PRESS RELEASE OR SOME OTHER MEANS OF CLARIFYING THIS ISSUE. LOCAL PRESS IN SOME CASES IS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF SECRETARY'S "FAILURE" TO DEMONSTRATE INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA BY ATTENDING BOGOTA MEETING.

4. I AM PLEASED THAT RABASA IS TAKING THIS ATTITUDE. I WAS ABLE TO OVERHEAR MUCH OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VASQUEZ CARRIZOSA IN WHICH HE UNDERLINED THE DESIRABILITY OF IRONING OUT PETTY REGIONAL JEALOUSIES AT BOGOTA AND LATER PRESENTING THE UNITED STATES WITH POSITIVE VIEWS. RABASA OF COURSE REALIZES THAT LATIN AMERICANS WILL HAVE MANY DIFFERING VIEWS AMONG THEMSELVES BUT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THEY SHOULD UNITE ONLY ON PUTTING THE US IN THE DOCK OF THE ACCUSED.

MCBRIDE
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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